

Sociological Perspectives on Watershed Management

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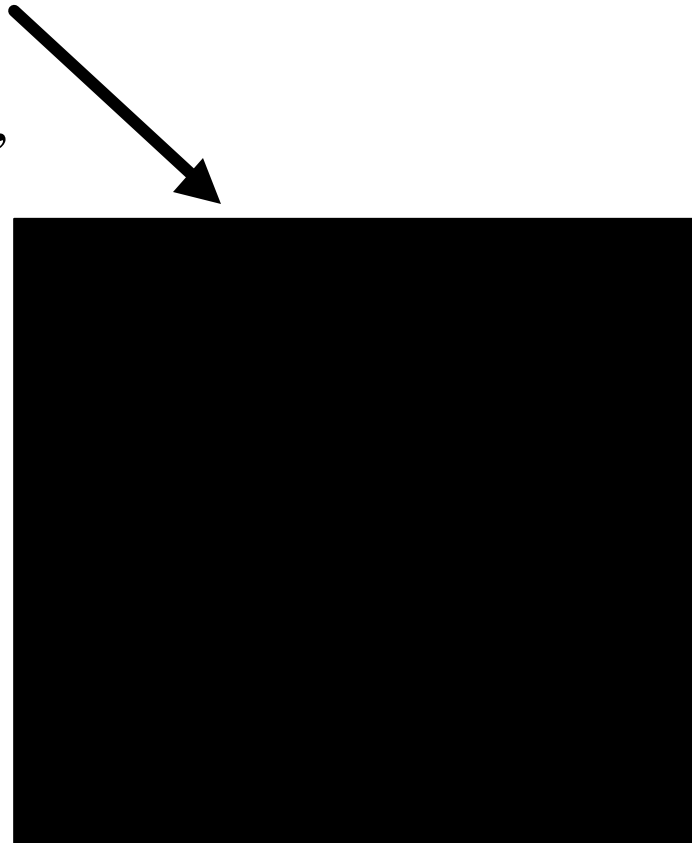
North Central Regional Center for Rural Development

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Old Model of Natural Resource Research and Protection

Scientific
information
about conditions,
threats and what
ought to be



Sustainable agroecosystem



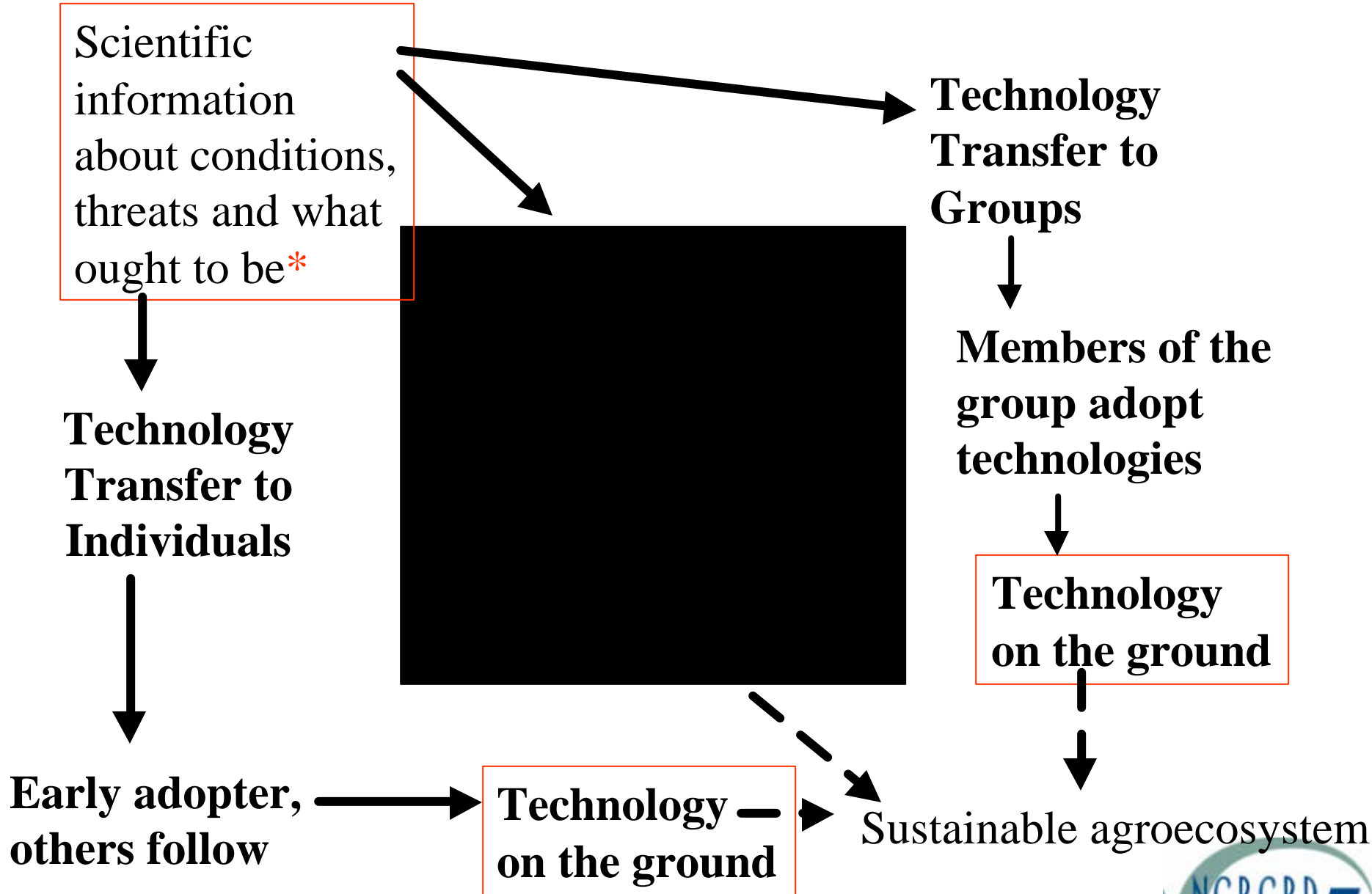
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“It’s not that I think a fact-finding committee is necessarily a bad idea. I’m really just not that interested in facts.”

Facts are not always motivators

Models of Agroecosystem Management



Old Model of Natural Resource Research and Protection

Scientific
information
about conditions,
threats and what
ought to be*

Regulations

Enforcement

New Practices on the Ground*

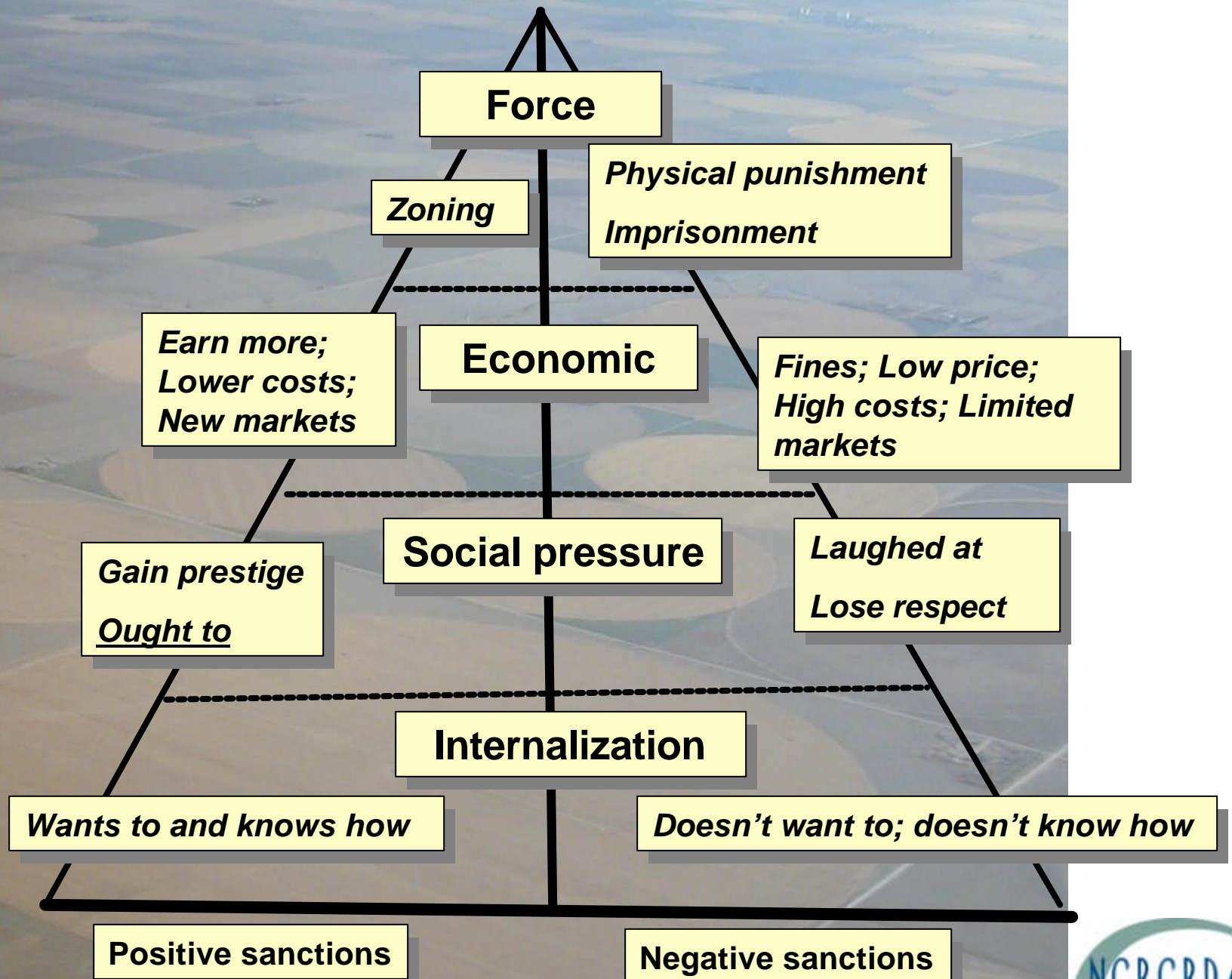
Technology Transfer

Groups

New Practices
on the Ground*

Sustainable environment





Social Capital

- mutual trust
- reciprocity
- groups
- collective identity
- sense of shared future
- working together

A photograph of a pond with many green lily pads floating on the water. In the lower-left area, a small wooden boat with several people is visible. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

Strengthened relationships and communication

- **increased interactions among unlikely groups within the community**
- **increased interactions among unlikely groups outside the community**
- **increased availability of information and knowledge**

Improved community initiative, responsibility, and adaptability



- Shared vision
- Building first on internal resources
- Looking for alternative ways to respond to constant changes
- Loss of the victim mentality
- Loss of a cargo cult mentality

Elements of Participation

- Context Specificity (Uniqueness of place)
- Collective Vision/Sense of place that is made explicit
- Diverse Perspectives
- Facilitating neutral agents
- Group Inquiry (Negotiate evidence)
- Participatory Contract (Who is accountable for what to whom, including funders)
- Monitoring, with attention to outputs & outcomes; celebrate and publicize successes and acknowledge that there is still work to do.
- Sustained Systematic Learning (Measuring, reflection, action)
- Evaluation in the context of the whole community